

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 15-25 are pending stand rejected. New claims 26-28 are added. Support for the new claims 26-28 is found, for example, in paragraphs 14 and 15 of the originally-filed specification. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and requests a withdrawal of all rejections as set forth below.

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is allegedly not of sufficient length to briefly describe the invention. Applicant has amended the abstract in accordance with the foregoing and respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection.

Claims 1-13 and 25 stand variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nelson (U.S. 6,249,708). Claim 1 recites "a resistance weld formed between the portion of the conductor and the component". Nelson discloses an insulative inner body member having a plurality of fluted channels defined around the peripheral surface, each carrying a conductor. Nelson further teaches these conductors are connected to electrodes, for example using a resistance weld. However, a resistance weld formed between a component and a portion of a conductor positioned within a groove of the component is not taught nor suggested. Nelson's inner body member is insulative, preferably made of medical grade silicone rubber. As such, Nelson teaches away from a resistance weld formed between the conductor and the insulative inner body member since such a weld would not be possible. While Nelson mentions that resistance welding may be used to join a distal end of a conductor to an electrode, the resulting resistance weld is not between the portion of the conductor positioned within a groove of a component. As such, the structure recited in claim 1, as a whole, is not made obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art by the teachings of Nelson. Applicant respectfully asserts the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Applicant asserts that the remarks presented herein are fully responsive to the Office Action and are sufficient to overcome the rejections presented in the Office Action. However, there may be other arguments to be made as to why the pending claims are patentable. Applicant does not concede any such arguments by having not

presented them herein. Applicant respectfully asserts that the present claims are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the instant rejections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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